

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior listings of the claims.

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A transgenic mouse whose genome is homozygous for a null allele of the endogenous transmembrane tryptase (mTMT) allele gene, said null allele comprising exogenous DNA, said transgenic mouse exhibiting, relative to a wild-type control mouse, at least one phenotype selected from the group consisting of the following: decreased body weight; decreased thymus weight; decreased thymus weight to body weight ratio; ~~or~~ and increased pre-pulse inhibition.

25. (Previously Presented) The transgenic mouse of claim 24, wherein the decreased body weight is a decrease of about 20% in female transgenic mice, relative to female wild-type mice.

26. (Previously Presented) The transgenic mouse of claim 24, wherein the decreased body weight is a decrease of about 15% in male transgenic mice, relative to male wild-type mice.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) A cell or tissue isolated from the transgenic mouse of claim 24.

Claims 29-35 (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The transgenic mouse of claim 24 wherein said exogenous DNA comprises a gene encoding a selection marker.

37. (Currently Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 36 wherein said gene encoding a selection marker is a neomycin ~~resistant~~ resistance gene.

38. (Previously Presented) The transgenic mouse of claim 24 wherein said exogenous DNA comprises a gene encoding a visible marker.

39. (Currently Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 38 wherein said ~~DNA comprises~~ gene encoding a visible marker is a lacZ gene.

Claim 40 (Canceled).

41. (New) The transgenic mouse of claim 1 wherein the endogenous mTMT gene encodes mRNA which comprises sequence corresponding to the cDNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said exogenous DNA comprises a LacZ-Neo cassette, and wherein said exogenous DNA replaces the nucleotides in the endogenous mTMT gene which correspond to nucleotides 164 to 287 of SEQ ID NO: 1.